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DENTAC, Ft. Hood, TX (254) 287-5336

AEGD-2 Graduation: Road to New Beginnings



Recent graduates and Residency Program NCOIC: (Left to right) CPT Swagerty, MAJ Doucette, CPT Griffith, SSG Newsome (NCOIC), CPT Burningham, MAJ Molinaro, and CPT Lovelace.

by CPT Abena Asare

16 June 2011 marked the culmination of two years of intense training for the six most recent graduates of Ft. Hood's Comprehensive General Dentistry Residency program. CPT Tyler Burningham (USA), MAJ John Doucette (CFDS), CPT Kyle Griffith (USA), CPT Tiffany Lovelace (USA), MAJ Stephen Molinaro (USA), and CPT Christopher Swagerty (USA) have all successfully completed all program requirements to earn the Area of

Concentration 63B with the Skill Identifier 9C.

Established in 1962, the Ft. Hood AEGD program is the U.S. Army Dental Corp's oldest postgraduate general dentistry training program. The program prepares general dentists to be able to provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary oral health care for soldiers, especially those with complex treatment needs. The program is designed to foster professional excellence by providing clinical and didactic training at the post-

graduate level in all dental specialties, allowing the graduates to function independently wherever soldiers are deployed, but particularly in areas where specialty referral is not readily available.

Graduates of the 63B program advance to positions of responsibility as clinicians, academicians and as Staff Officers and Commanders.

The graduation ceremony was officiated by SSG Shannon Newsome,

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TOP'S CORNER

*by 1SG Ronnie Weimer
First Sergeant, Ft. Hood
DENTAC*

I have been here for a year now and let me say, WOW, what a year!!! I want to start off by saying I am very proud to be the First Sergeant for such a great organization that consists of some amazing Officers, Enlisted and Civilian personnel. Without all of you and your hard work the accomplishment of our vital mission would not happen. So, from me to ya'll, THANKS!

We went through a transition in August of last year where we said goodbye to the Great Plains Regional Dental Command, and became the part of Southern Regional Dental Command. Although our region changed, and we lost some officers to the reorganization, our mission stayed the same and has actually gotten more intense. We find ourselves doing what we members of the Army do best: Do more with less. The Change of Command was outstanding and we said goodbye to COL Horning and wished him good luck on his retirement (I saw him and his wife a week ago, and trust me, he is doing just fine) and welcomed COL Shelley as the commander of the Fort Hood Dental Activity. We as an organization could



1SG Weimer atop Cannon Ball display at Ft. Sumter, SC.

not have gotten a better commander to lead us.

The organizational day in October was hands down the best organizational day that I have ever been to (except for the one back in 1993, in Panama, where we had 5 kegs of beer, and Roberto Duran showed up to have a couple cold ones with the DENTAC). Anyways, I digress. I was very pleased with not only the entertainment, but the turn-out of all the members of the DENTAC and their family members. We are scheduled to do it again on 21 October and we will try to top last years, but that is going to be hard to do.

High Caries Risk: We have all heard this before. Since the implementation of this program on Fort Hood, over 9,000 Soldiers have been enrolled in the program. This is an awesome program that we

do very well, and we are improving the dental wellness of all these Soldiers and making a long term difference in their oral health. Keep up the good work and remember "what Soldiers gets varnished?", "Every Soldier".

We had SSG Stevens, and SPC Crow represent us at the Regional NCO/SOY competition at Camp Bullis in December. What a great competition it was, full of very difficult tasks, road marches, hands on testing, oral boards, written essays, and the list goes on. The combatives competition was probably the best. While SSG Stevens has training in this specific area, and used his skills to dominate his opponents, SPC Crow did not. Although SPC Crow did not have the technical skills, he still won the event. His favorite move was to get on his

opponent, and simply crush his/her head into the ground until they either passed out from lack of oxygen, or tapped out due to the pressure that was slowly transforming their head into the shape of a large egg. I could not have been more proud as a First Sergeant. After every bout with SPC Crow, all the other First Sergeants could do was yell "MEDIC!!" as their Soldier lay there wondering what actually just happened, and spoke in a strange tongue known only to them. Outstanding job guys, you made me proud. For the first time in the history of Fort Hood, we finally reached 95% dental readiness on this post. This is paramount event, one that we will continue to improve. With all the hard work, late nights and weekends we did what some said could never happen.

(cont'd on pg. 3)



(Left to right) 1SG Weimer, COL Shelley and SFFC Adams represent Ft. Hood DENTAC during the SRDC Change of Command ceremony held in May.

AEGD-2 Graduation, con't

(cont'd from pg. 1)

NCOIC of the BJDC-based residency program, and an instrumental member of the residency program's operational team.

The graduation address was delivered by COL Bernard Henessy, former director of the Ft. Hood AEGD-2 residency program. Currently serving as director of the one-year AEGD residency program at Ft. Sill, OK, COL Henessy served his fifth and last year as Ft. Hood's AEGD-2 Program Director during the graduating class' junior year. He thus was an instrumental figure

in the graduates' training experience and was honored to be invited back to share in the commencement celebration as a speaker.

COL Henessy's remarks highlighted the high standard of excellence achieved by participants in the residency program, as well as the uncertainty that comes along with the ending of one phase of their career and the beginning of another phase as the graduates are now called to, "Step it up a notch."

Past graduates of the Ft. Hood AEGD-2 Program

include COL Shelley, COL Walter Rongey (current Program Director) and MAJ Michael Mansell (current

Assistant Director).

Congratulations and job well-done to the recent graduates!



CPT Lovelace, MAJ Molinaro, MAJ Doucette, CPT Burningham, and CPT Griffith celebrate during the cake cutting.

Top's Corner, cont'd

(cont'd from pg. 2)

Not only are we at 96%, we are one of the highest dentally ready FORSCOM posts in the world. Dental Readiness is our mission, and obviously we do it well. Congratulations to all the members of this organization, you should feel proud of this accomplishment. Going full circle, the Command went to Fort Gordon Georgia for the Change of Command for outgoing Commander COL Grimes, and our new Regional Commander COL Covington. During this event, COL Shelley and I cased the Great Plains Regional Dental Command colors, forever. It was a bitter sweet moment for most that were part of the GPRDC during its legacy. The time spent there was a great time to catch up with

long lost friends. Georgia, well, I will just say it is not on my list of retirement places. Texas is hot, this we all know, but Georgia.....DAMN HOT. I never got the concept of humidity until I stepped out of that Augusta airport and instantly needed an IV. It isn't just the heat either; did you know that they do not sell BEER on Sundays???? Huh? Yes, not a happy First Sergeant when he can't have a cold beer on Sunday, when the temperature is 150 degrees.

After the Change of Command, COL Shelley, Mr. Schimmels and I drove to Charleston, S.C. for some much needed R&R. COL Shelley and I went on the Charleston Ghost Tour the first night (Mr. Schimmels said he was too scared to go) and

toured the haunted dungeons. Pirates were imprisoned there and stayed just long enough for them to start smelling ripe, at which time they were taken down to the water and hanged for all other pirates to see. I recommend the tour to anybody who wants to maybe see a ghost.....we didn't.....I was very disappointed. The next day we walked for about 1000 miles (I was in flip flops by the way) and saw the beautiful houses down by the Battery. If you ever get there, take a look out in the ocean and you can see a flag flying over Fort Sumter, it is an awesome site. We also did some photo ops and COL Shelley made me sit on top of some cannon balls. With me sitting there, her snapping the photo, she says "Don't let anybody

tell you that my First Sergeant doesn't have any....." Well, you get the picture.

After Charleston, we drove to Columbia and attended the graduation of SSG Graham, C and SSG Graham, B from Recruiter School. Good luck on THAT!!! During my entire 20 years in the military, I have heard horror stories about recruiting. These stories scared me more than the dungeon tours of Charleston, and I swore that I would rather cut my own toe off than do that duty, BUT, I think the Grahams are going to be very successful.

Again, I want to thank you all for your outstanding contributions to the success of this organization. We all know that none of this could be accomplished without all of you!



The Ft. Hood Chapter of AUSA

provides support for
the Troops and their
families and a
national voice for the
Army.

\$1000 scholarships
are available each
year to AUSA
member soldiers and
dependent family
members who are
pursing higher
education and
training.

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and other member
benefits.



Best wishes
to all of our
outgoing
Unit
members!

Hails ...

COL CLOUSE, HUNTER from KOREA
SFC ADAMS, TRES BIEN (HQ) from FT. SAM HOUSTON, TX
MAJ BELTRAN, DAVID from FT BRAGG, NC
MAJ HAMBRICE, JEFFERY from FT STEWARD, GA
CPT BUTTI, GURVINDER from FT SAM HOUSTON, TX
CPT DALLING, KEVIN from ALEXANDRIA, VA
CPT ELYASSI, ALI from HAWAII
CPT OCHSNER, TRAVIS from ALEXANDRIA, VA
CPT WEIGLE, JACOB from ALEXANDRIA, VA
SGT CORREA, NESTOR from WALTER REED
SGT DENZ, NATALIA from GERMANY
SGT EDWARDS, ROBERT from GERMANY
SPC ANDERSON, EDDIE from BELGIUM
SPC BACANI, FRANCISCO from ALASKA
SPC HARIS, DANIEL from GERMANY
SPC MAIOLA, BREANN from GERMANY
SPC MOORE, RACHELL from GERMANY
SPC SANDERS, KRISTIN from GERMANY

Farewells ...

SFC MAAG, MICHAEL going to RETIREMENT
SSG NEWSOME, SHANNON going to FT HOOD (502nd)
SPC CARSON, DAMAION going to GERMANY
SPC CROW, ANTONIO going to FT POLK, LA
SPC WITHAM, PAMELA going to ETS
SPC MOSS, ALICIA going to ETS
SPC STOWERS, KYLE going to GERMANY
SPC HENRY, DENNIS going to GERMANY
COL MOODY, JOHN going to FT HOOD, TX (502nd)
CPT BURNINGHAM, TYLER going to GERMANY
LTC GONZALEZ-MARRERO, JUAN going to ETS
MAJ BOWLES, JOSPEH going to ETS
MAJ HART, KRISTOPHER going to ETS
MAJ LUQUE, DOLORES going to FT IRWIN, CA
MAJ MOLINARO, STEPHEN going to FT HOOD, TX (502nd)
MAJ RANSCHAERT, MARK going to ETS
CPT BURNINGHAM, TYLER going to GERMANY
CPT GRIFFITH, KYLE going to HAWAII
CPT LOVELACE, TIFFANY going to FT STEWART, GA
CPT SWAGERTY, CHRISTOPHER going to FT BLISS, TX

Q-Tips

Tips to Ensure a Safer DENTAC

by CPT Shahnaaz Nistar,
Patient Safety Manager,
Ft. Hood, DENTAC

Incident Reports

1. Allergic Reaction: A staff member ate a food item which caused her airway to be blocked. She did not have any medication on her. Dentist gave her an epinephrine injection. EMS was activated and staff member was treated.

TIP: Make sure all emergency kits are stocked and check expiration date on all medication.

2. During an exam at SRP, the provider dropped a mirror and chipped the patient's tooth. Patient was referred to clinic and treated.

TIP: Make sure you have a firm hold on all instruments that you are passing or using to perform patient care.

3. Final restoration was placed on a tooth that had incomplete endodontic treatment. Radiograph taken at later point revealed need for further treatment. Patient was scheduled and seen for

completion of root canal therapy.

TIP: Make sure you confirm radiographs prior to patient treatment. If the X-ray is unclear, take another one to confirm treatment.

4. Provider had sharp injury while removing temporary cement with dental explorer. Proper procedure was followed—occupational health was informed and blood was drawn

from patient and provider

TIP: Make sure you are very cautious while handling sharp instruments. If you do get injured make sure you follow the proper protocol.

5. Staff Injury—staff member hit head on overhead light. TIP: Make sure you are aware of your surroundings to prevent injury.

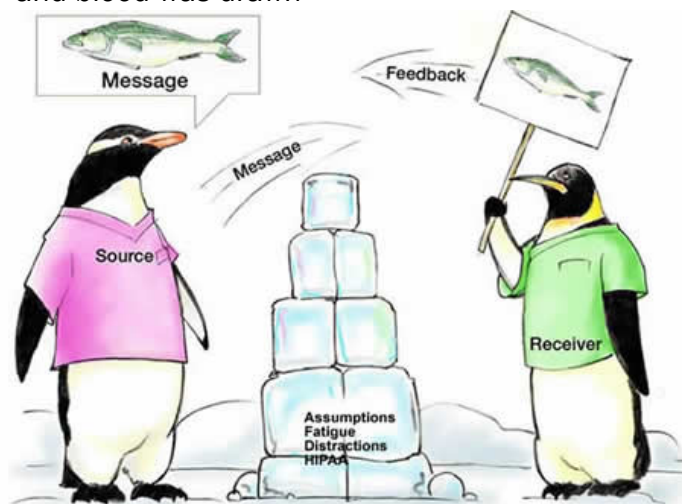
6. Staff member was hanging up blinds, stepped off desk onto

a chair. The chair fell over causing the staff member to flip backwards and hit their head on the wall. 911 was called and staff member was rushed to the ER.

TIP: Make sure that you do not step on anything that may seem unstable. Instead call in a work order to have the item fixed.

7. During routine dental care patient said he felt funny. Patient was raised to normal position and then fainted. The patient was transported by medics for further treatment.

TIP: Ask your patients during the procedure if they are doing okay. If not stop the procedure immediately. Know where all medication, AED's, and oxygen tanks are located in case of an emergency.



Good Catches

1. Wrong record was pulled for treatment causing a delay in treatment.

TIP: Make sure all of your records for the day are accurate. If you can check them against the schedule the day before. Make sure you verify patients

full name, date of birth, and social.

2. Radiograph almost taken on wrong tooth number.

TIP: Make sure that you annotate on the record the correct tooth number and ensure that you are ordering the correct radiograph.



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Congratulations to ... SSG Stevens!

On 15 June 2011, SSG SSG John L. Stevens reenlisted with the US Army in a ceremony officiated by COL Shelley, Ft. Hood DENTAC Commander.

This will mark SSG Stevens' thirteenth year as a US Army soldier, and he has reenlisted for an

additional 6 years of service. SSG Stevens is a reservist who originally hails from Miami, FL, and currently serves DENTAC Readiness NCO.

Congratulations SSG Stevens, and thank you for your hard work and dedication. Hooah!



SSG Stevens takes his oath during his reenlistment ceremony.

Congratulations to ... SPC Lyons!

SPC Yarnisha Lyons won Soldier of the Quarter, 2nd quarter 2011. The Company level competition includes an oral Board review, written examination, and several hands-on components including first aid, map reading, and drill & ceremony. Soldiers' APFT

scores are also a factor in the selection Board's decision.

SPC Lyons is no stranger to high achievement in DENTAC; in fact, this is her second time winning Soldier of the Quarter! She was also the winner of Soldier of the Quarter,

1st quarter 2010.

Congratulations SPC Lyons, and thank you for your dedication and high standard of excellence; we are proud of you and know that you will continue to do great things!

Do you have any great stories, ideas or quotes to include in the newsletter?

We welcome your contributions! Please send stories, photos or any other news and information you would like to share with the DENTAC Unit to the newsletter coordinator, CPT Abena

Asare, via Outlook email on the AMEDD Exchange server.

DentACTION!! is a quarterly publication; the next edition will be published in October

2011. All submissions are due 15 days before the next publication date.

Remember to get your information in early to avoid being cut-off before the deadline!

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